

Our Lady of Grace Catholic School Welcomes You!

New Family Information and FAQs 2015-2016

Welcome to Our Lady of Grace Catholic School! Many questions you may have as a new family are answered in detail in the official OLG Parent/Student Handbook (online). The OLG Directory will also be out shortly with contact information. However, to get you off and running, we have compiled answers to some frequently asked questions (FAQs)! This is by no means a complete compilation of questions you may have. Please refer to the official OLG Handbook, look in the OLG Directory coming out shortly or contact your OLG new family liaison or teacher with additional questions or concerns you may have.

Important Contact Information

Our Lady of Grace Catholic School
5051 Eden Avenue
Edina, Minnesota 55436
Phone - 952-929-5463 Fax - 952-929-8170
www.olgschool.net

Attendance – x 236
Mrs. Trenary – x 121
School Office – Richelle x 122 or Linda x 123
Health Services – x 116
Athletic Office – Jeff Solsten x 157

Parish Office – 952-929-3317 www.olgparish.org

Edina Bus Garage– 952-848-4979
Adams Services–(for EP bus and Bloomington bus) 952-544-7273
First Student – (Bearpath Bus) 952-470-5366

Dr. Steve Kahn – School Psychologist - 651-426-4297
Extended Care – Sharon Hierlmaier 612-240-3514

New Family FAQ's

What are the school hours?

Our Lady of Grace students are in session each day from 8:30am to 3:15pm. Arrivals may begin no earlier than 8:15am [unless you are (1) part of the before-care program, (2) a Middle School student arriving before 7:45am to see a teacher, or (3) arriving for sports or club activities].

What if my child is sick and will not be attending school?

Please contact the school office at 952-929-5463 to inform the school that your child will be absent or tardy. If your child is arriving after 8:30am, he or she must sign in at the reception desk. A parent/guardian must pick up a child and sign him/her out at the reception desk if the student leaves school early.

What is the OLG school web site?

www.olschool.net is always a great starting point for information! Teacher and administrator emails are available as well as the Weekender, school calendar, OLG Handbook, Service Club information, and other important information!

What is the Weekender?

The Weekender is a newsletter that is sent out every Friday afternoon via email. The Weekender will fill you in on what is going on in school. You will want to read it every week. It can also be found on the OLG homepage.

What is the school uniform?

You can buy uniform shirts, pants, shorts, jumpers, skirts, and skorts at Educational Outfitters in St. Louis Park or at one of the used uniform sales. Students can wear shorts only during the months of May, June and September. No shorts are allowed on Mass days for students in any grade.

Where do I get the uniform sweatshirts?

All uniform approved sweatshirts are sold through the OLG Spirit Shop. Order forms can be found online at www.olschool.net/school store. Drop off completed order forms in the office with a check made out to OLG PSO. Orders will be sent in monthly. Other sweatshirts can be worn during recess, but not in the classroom.

What is a NUD?

NUD stands for “no uniform day”. Please check the handbook for the NUD policy.

I do not live in Edina. What options do I have for bus transportation?

Full bus information is available in the OLG handbook. If you live in an area not serviced by busing, you are responsible for transportation of your child to/from school. Arrivals are not permitted prior to 8:15am. Should your child require our before-care or after-care services, please contact Mrs. Sharon Hierlmaier for detailed information. Sharon can be reached at 952-929-5463 ext 141.

Where does the car pool line form?

The car pool line forms near the back entrance of the school. Students can be dropped off in the morning no earlier than 8:15am. The after-school car pool line may begin to form by 2:45pm, sometimes earlier. Generally, most people should be through the carpool line by 3:30pm. Students

get into cars on the passenger side. Parents are not allowed to park and go into the school to get their children. Please have a sign in your front window with your family name (will be provided to you on Registration Day) to speed up the process. The complete car pool policy is printed in the handbook.

What is the lunch program?

Your child may either bring a cold lunch or buy a hot lunch at school. Lunch and milk can be purchased in the lunchroom (Cassidy Hall) through the child's lunch account. The OLG lunch program is managed by Edina Food Services and Sodexo. The student will be assigned a number to punch in at the cashier that will automatically debit his/her Paypams account. New students' PINs will be available from your teacher or there will also be a list at registration if you would like to look it up there. This account can be managed online www.Paypams.com or by dropping off a check at school made out to Edina School District #273. The menu is available online at www.sodexoeducation.com under the Edina Public Schools #273 drop down menu.

May I visit my child during lunch?

For reasons of safety and maintaining order in the lunchroom, we ask that parents DO NOT visit their children during the lunch hour. If you need to see your child during the school day, we ask that you do so on the playground during recess. However, please do not bring younger siblings to the playground.

Is there a school directory?

Yes! A directory will be available once school is in session. It is usually sent out a few weeks into the school year.

What happens at registration?

You will have the opportunity to buy used uniforms, sign up for sports, purchase certain classroom supplies, and sign up and get information about many volunteer opportunities. You will also receive a packet for the Gift Wrap fundraiser. Please take time to visit with the volunteer coordinators so you may find a good fit to participate in your child's classroom or with an all-school event. Registration is also a time to sign up for extracurricular activities. Please note that there will be additional opportunities to volunteer in the classroom that are not posted at registration, but later at the class "coffee" or via Sign-Up Genius. On registration day you and your child will also have a short conference together with his or her teacher. *All new families are invited to attend a special New Parent Registration Night. You will have a chance to complete all registration activities (except meeting the teacher) that night and to receive a tour of the school. Please note that you will need to return the next day to meet your child's teacher. Check the calendar for registration dates.

Are sports and extracurricular activities available for my child to participate in at school?

Sports information will be distributed by Mr. Solsten, physical education teacher, throughout the year. Generally, OLG sports are for students in grades 5-8. Girl's volleyball will be offered for fourth grade girls as well. Other clubs are available: Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Chess Club, Mathmasters (5-6), Continental Math (3-4), Math Team (7-8), Destination Imagination, Snowbusters, reading clubs, band, choir, and more. See registration tables and the Weekender for more information.

What is PIE night?

Parent Information Evening (PIE) is an opportunity to meet the teachers and hear about the curriculum for the classroom. K-5 PIE night and Middle School PIE night will be held in September.

What is a Parent Coffee?

The parent coffee is an opportunity for the room parents to gather the classroom parents and fulfill the classroom volunteer opportunities. These coffees are informal gatherings and an important part of the beginning of the year. Bring your calendar so you can sign up for parties and other activities!

What is PowerSchool?

PowerSchool is a great way to keep track of your student's progress in school. From 3rd grade on, all grades and attendance records are kept in PowerSchool. Parents will be given a password to access their child's account. Checking it periodically will help prevent missing assignments and help keep track of what they are doing in the classroom.

What is the Laptop program?

In the OLG Middle School, our students are loaned laptops to use during the school year. This program is called One-to-One and we are blessed for our kids to have this opportunity. Laptop training is mandatory for all MS students, and one parent must attend the training/information session with each student.

What is the Blue Ribbon Award?

Our Lady of Grace Catholic School is one of seven Minnesota schools named a National Blue Ribbon School for 2009. The Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private elementary, middle, and high schools that are either academically superior or that demonstrate dramatic gains in student achievement. OLG also received a Blue Ribbon in 2001, and is one of less than 15 schools in Minnesota which have received the Blue Ribbon more than once since the program began in 1982.

How do I communicate with my children during the day?

If you need to get a note to your child or their teacher during the school day, it is best to call the office and leave a message.

When do I need to register my child for the next school year?

Catholic Schools Week in January kicks off our student registration for 1st-8th grades. Our Kindergarten registration is held at the end of November following our Kindergarten Open House. It is very important to fill out the registration forms completely every year. It is especially important to include sibling information so we can plan for future school enrollment.

What is a "Learner Profile"?

The Learner Profile is an opportunity for you, the parent, to tell Mrs. Trenary and your new teacher a little about your child. It has some basic questions about your child that serves as a valuable tool in his/her class placement.

When is Spring Break?

The full calendar is available on the website. Our spring break is one week and follows the Edina School District calendar.

Are there any concerts?

There are two k-2, 3-5, Band and Middle School Choir concerts each year. Concert dates can be found on the school calendar.

Can I volunteer to help at school?

Yes! We welcome and encourage volunteers. We have numerous volunteer opportunities available. Archdiocesan policy requires background checks, VIRTUS training, and a signed Archdiocesan Volunteer Code of Conduct for all volunteers at Our Lady of Grace Catholic School

Where do I get a volunteer badge to wear while I am at school?

When you enter the school, you will need to sign in at the reception desk. There are "Volunteer" badges to wear while you are in the school. If you volunteer frequently, you may request a badge with your name on it. If you would like one, please ask the office to put your name on the badge list.

May I sit with my child during weekly Mass?

Yes! Parents are not only welcome, but encouraged to attend the weekly all school Masses held each Wednesday morning at 9am. Parents may meet up with their child as each classroom walks through the church commons area into the church. Parents may sit with their child and his/her class or may sit with other parents in the empty pews near the back of the church. Each classroom plans liturgies for the Masses throughout the year.

What safety precautions are taken at school?

All visitors to the school are required to sign in at the reception desk upon entry. The school practices fire drills, tornado drills, and lock downs per district requirements. Also, a new state-of-the-art- security system complete with video has recently been installed throughout the building.

What is the dress code for school pictures?

Individual pictures (September): No uniform is necessary (NUD). Parent and student may pick out an outfit. Classroom pictures (January): Uniform required.

If I'm not on the PSO Board can I attend the meetings?

Yes! The Parent School Organization (PSO) is open to everyone. We welcome and encourage you to attend all meetings. Meetings are usually the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 9:30am in the school library. Information is also on the OLG website under the Volunteer/PSO tab.

This is an effort to answer some of your questions. Please contact your New Family Liaisons, Jenny Cornell (jennycornell@comcast.net) or Heather Hoyt (hmhoyt@hotmail.com), with any additional questions.